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Attorney's Docket No.: 16949-002001

REMARKS

Claims 20-69, 71-79, 81-82 and 84-99 remain pending with claims 20, 49, 50, 71, 81 and 84 being independent. Claims 74-77 have been amended and claims 100-106 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 74-77 have amended to correct their respective dependencies thereby obviating the rejection under 35 USC 112(2).

For the reasons set forth at pages 2-4 of the office action, claims 100-104 and 106 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) and 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Rosenberg (USP 6,028,593) either alone or in combination with Walton (USP). These rejections and their underlying rationale are traversed in their entirety. However, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner's position, and solely to expedite prosecution, claims 100-104 and 106 have been canceled.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

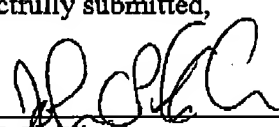
The foregoing comments made with respect to positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence by the applicant with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, applicant's arguments for patentability of a claim should not be construed as implying that there are not other good reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

8/20/04



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